

2 18. The tackifier of claim 17 which additionally comprises an effective amount of water to produce a pumpable composition of said synthetic polymer, said associated natural organic material and said cross-linking agent.

3 19. The tackifier of claim 17 in which said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 10% to 80% by weight, said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 15% to 75% by weight, and said cross-linking agent is present in an amount from 1% to 15% by weight.

4 20. The tackifier of claim 17 in which said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 10% to 60% by weight, said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 15% to 45% by weight, and said cross-linking agent is present in an amount from 1% to 10% by weight.

5 21. The tackifier of claim 17 in which said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 50% to 65% by weight, said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 25% to 35% by weight, and said cross-linking agent is present in an amount from 8% to 12%.

6 22. The tackifier of claim 17 in which said natural organic material is selected from the group consisting of: cornstarch, rice starch, wheat starch, potato starch, polysaccharides, mint, animal gelatin, plant seed husks, corn gluten, natural latex, guar gum, psyllium, mucilage, and kelp.

7 23. The tackifier of claim 17 in which said cross-linking agent is selected from the group consisting of: sodium borate, sodium metaborate, sodium tetraborate, hydrated sodium borate,

hydrated sodium metaborate, hydrated sodium tetraborate, magnesium sulfate, molybdenum sulfate, and sodium molybdate.

8 24. The tackifier of claim 17 which additionally consists essentially of a surfactant present in an amount ranging between a trace amount and about 1% by weight.

9 25. The tackifier of claim 17 which additionally includes of a fiber to form a slurry.

7.29 10 26. The slurry of claim 25 which additionally comprises an effective amount of water to produce a pumpable composition of said synthetic polymer, said associated natural organic material, and said cross-linking agent.

11 27. The slurry of claim 25 in which said tackifier portion includes said synthetic polymer being present in an amount from 10% to 80% by weight, said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 15% to 75% by weight, and said cross-linking agent being present in an amount from 1% to 15% by weight.

12 28. The slurry of claim 25 in which said tackifier portion includes said synthetic polymer being present in an amount from 10% to 60% by weight, said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer being present in an amount from 15% to 45% by weight, and said cross-linking agent is present in an amount from 1% to 10% by weight.

13 29. The slurry of claim 25 in which said tackifier portion includes said synthetic polymer being present in an amount from 50% to 65% by weight, said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer being present in an amount from 25% to

35% by weight, and said cross-linking agent being present in an amount from 8% to 12%.

14 30. The tackifier of claim 25 in which said natural organic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of: cornstarch, rice starch, wheat starch, potato starch, polysaccharides, mint, animal gelatin, plant seed husks, corn gluten, natural latex, guar gum, psyllium, mucilage, and kelp. 112

15 31. The tackifier of claim 25 in which said cross-linking agent is selected from the group consisting of: sodium borate, sodium metaborate, sodium tetraborate, hydrated sodium borate, hydrated sodium metaborate, hydrated sodium tetraborate, and magnesium sulfate.

16 32. The tackifier of claim 25 which additionally includes of a surfactant present in an amount ranging between a trace amount and about 1% by weight.